

MHDS COMMISSION
July 15, 2021
9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Zoom – Approved 8/19/2021

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Berndt	June Klein-Bacon
Diane Brecht	Jeff Sorensen
Rep. Dennis Bush	Richard Whitaker
Teresa Daubitz	Russell Wood
Don Kass	Lorrie Young

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Betsy Akin	Timothy Perkins
Sen. Jeff Edler	Maria Sorensen
Janee Harvey	Cory Turner
Rep. Lindsay James	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott
Shari O'Bannon	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Rob Aiken	Bill Kallestad
Marilyn Althoff	Linda Kellen
Theresa Armstrong	Todd Lange
Kris Bell	Stacie Maass
Jess Benson	Carrie Malone
Emily Berry	Dawn Mentzer
Teresa Bomhoff	Jack Mescher
Morgan Casey	Cheryl Plank
Liz Cox	Libby Reekers
Wendy DePhillips	Amos Rop
Natalie Ginty	Flora Schmidt
Emma Hall	Susan Seehase
John Hedgecoth	Sandy Swanson
Emma Hester	Gano Whetstone

Materials Referenced:

June 17, 2021 MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes
Serving People with I/DD in the Community PPT Presentation
Rolling Hills Management Plan – Amended 7.9.21
Rolling Hills Management Plan Changes – July 2021
2021 MHDS Commission Cost Increase Letter - DRAFT
MHDS Commission 2020 Biennial Report 12.3.2020-Final

Welcome and Introductions

Russell Wood called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was not established with only nine voting members attending virtually.

Review and Vote on Approval of June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The review and approval of the June 17, 2021 meeting minutes was tabled until the August 2021 meeting as quorum was not established.

Mental Health and Disability Services Regional Management Plan Amendment – Rolling Hills

The review and approval of the amended management plan for Rolling Hills was tabled until the August 2021 meeting as quorum was not established.

Review and Vote on 2021 Cost Increase Letter

The review and vote on the 2021 MHDS Commission Cost Increase Letter as tabled as quorum was not established. A special meeting of the MHDS Commission will be set up prior to August 1, 2021 for the discussion and vote on this letter.

ID/DD Community Services

Susan Seehase, Chief Operations Officer, Iowa Association of Community Providers presented the PowerPoint presentation, "Serving People with I/DD in the Community," which provided an overview of community services available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as challenges faced by individuals and service providers.

There was discussion regarding workforce, including the need to recruit and retain, as well as train staff. There was also discussion the need to professionalize the role of direct support staff, in order to acknowledge the value of these positions, as well as provide a competitive wage. There was discussion regarding documentation, and confidentiality laws in Iowa and how they differ from federal law. There was discussion regarding establishing partnerships between community colleges and high schools to add human service certification programs to curriculum.

MHDS Update

Administrative Rules

DHS has been granted emergency rulemaking authority per SF619 related to the incentive fund that was created for the MHDS Regions. The authority is specific to the first couple of fiscal years, and is related to timeframes for applications, application due dates, minimal requirements for review of the application, and notification to regions. As these are emergency rules, when the package is presented to the MHDS Commission in September it will be for approval of the rules, as emergency rules don't have the public notice period. The MHDS Commission Administrative Rules Committee will meet on August 9, 2021 to review these rules prior to bringing them to the full Commission. This committee will consist of Russell Wood, Diane Brecht, and Don Kass. There will be a larger regular administrative rule package for SF619, which will also include rules regarding the incentive fund, that DHS will be working on starting late summer/early fall.

Inpatient Bed Tracking Study Committee

SF524 directed DHS to do inpatient bed tracking system study committee. DHS has formed a workgroup that is representative of the Iowa Hospital Association, Managed Care Organizations, law enforcement, Wellmark, county mental health advocate, and DHS. The workgroup will be co-

chaired by Kim Murphy from the Iowa Hospital Association, and Marissa Eyanson, Mental Health Administrator with DHS. Meetings will start July 27th and run monthly through October. There is a report due to the legislature by December 15th. The charge of the workgroup is look at the current inpatient bed tracking system, and how it might be made more of a real-time system. As well as expanding hospitals that are able to take individuals with higher levels of acuity and other disabilities, and what a reimbursement rate might be for this level of care. These meetings will be held virtually via Zoom. Information regarding how to join these meetings as well meeting materials can be found on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/mhds/community-integration>.

Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

The plan for the supplemental dollars (\$6.5M) received from SAMHSA related to COVID has been approved. DHS is moving forward on implementing this plan. There will be contracts with CMHCs related to expanding the First Episode Psychosis program in the state as well as Requests for Proposals. DHS will notify when these are released. Items in the approved plan include peer-run services, technical assistance for the state, specifically, and providers related to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), collaborating with the Department of Public Health on a training program for licensed substance use disorder providers through RELIAS, a virtual online training, and expanding it for more mental health providers, expanding children's Systems of Care programs, housing supports and outreach for individuals that have serious mental illness as well as homeless through working with our PATH providers, as well as supports for fidelity training of evidenced-based practices.

The American Rescue Plan has awarded DHS \$11.2M through the Mental Health Block Grant. These dollars are awarded from September 2021 – September 2025. A plan is due to SAMHSA regarding these dollars. DHS has received an extension on the plan. DHS is looking at things started under the COVID dollars that can be sustained and continued as those dollars end in March 2023, as well as several other areas of focus including increasing access to children's services, evidenced-based practices for children, behavioral health workforce, support of the implementation plan for 9-8-8, and additions and enhancement to the current crisis system including mobile crisis. The supplemental dollars related to COVID as well as the American Rescue Plan also have the same set-asides as the regular Mental Health Block Grant. These set-asides include First Episode Psychosis (10%) and crisis services (5%).

Iowa Medicaid is receiving an increased federal match (FMAP) related to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The link to the Iowa Medicaid American Rescue Plan HCBS Spending Plan can be found on the DHS website at:

https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Iowa_Medicaid_ARPA_HCBS_Spending_Plan.pdf?071920211323. This plan has been submitted, but is not yet an approved plan.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

CCBHCs are a type of provider that offers integrated comprehensive care, and provides specific services including screening and assessment, treatment planning, mental health and substance use disorder services, crisis services, and psychiatric rehabilitation services. SAMHSA has offered grants directly to providers. Iowa currently has 12 providers in the state, including Abbe Center, Seasons Center, Eyerly Ball, Plains Area Mental Health, Berryhill, Hillcrest, Elevate Housing, Robert Young, Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa, Heartland and the two providers who

were just awarded are Prairie Ridge and Pathways. There is good representation across the state. There are other mental health providers who are looking at moving in this direction should more grants become available.

COVID Recovery Iowa

DHS has received a cost increase extension for the FEMA grant for COVID Recovery Iowa. This extension is for another six months and will run through December 9, 2021. COVID Recovery Iowa is for mental health outreach and utilized the Abbe Center Warm Line as well as the Iowa Concern Line and provided virtual counseling appointments, referrals for housing, funding resources, substance use disorder services, health services, as well as FEMA and building resources. FEMA has also approved COVID Recovery staff going out into the community, specifically the children's team along with the Children's Coordinator has gone out to camps to do programs with staff and kids at the camps.

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board Update

Rich Whitaker reported that the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board met on July 13, 2021. Rich reviewed the highlights of the meeting.

- Brad Niebling with the Department of Education (DOE) provided updates regarding grants they are awarding. \$8.6M will be awarded. 130 districts have applied for these grants.
- Presentation regarding the School Mental Health Center, which is a new initiative at the University of Iowa. Daniel Clay, Dean, School Mental Health Center, and Amy Williamson, Director for Learning and Results, Iowa Department of Education presented. The School Mental Health Center will provide a center for research, education and training for best practices in order to increase the resources and ability of schools to address the behavioral and emotional health needs of students and to provide more resources for faculty. Stakeholders have indicated that top priorities for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is social-emotional learning, and behavioral and mental health in schools and accelerated learning in specific areas. November 2-3, 2021 Summit on School Mental Health announced. Will focus on the work of the center and included a planning session.
- There was a presentation from Barb Anderson and Kathy Bertsch from DOE regarding therapeutic classrooms. \$1.6M total was awarded to six districts (26 districts applied) to expand and supplement therapeutic classrooms. Therapeutic classroom provide tools and training for teachers to create a therapeutic environment in the classroom so that students can benefit that might have some behavioral or emotional needs and not be separated from the class.
- Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development, provided an update on workforce recommendations from the Children's Mental Health Systems Workforce Workgroup. Some of these recommendations included reviewing Medicaid reimbursement rates, prioritizing and establishing a loan consolidation or a loan forgiveness program, waiver for state income tax for providers who agree to practice in rural areas, as well as a focus on training and leveraging experts to create a network to consult primary care providers.
- DHS Director, Kelly Garcia provided an update on several topics including; an array of children's services that DHS and IDPH were working on together to provide, Families First changes and working on pulling down federal dollars, child welfare needs, importance of IT systems, major practice changes at DHS regarding to children, and the Child Care Taskforce.

- Shelly Horak, Project Manager, DHS worked with the Children's Board on strategic planning.
- Shanell Wagler was appointed to the Community Mental Health Center Rules Advisory Committee as a representative from the Children's Board
- Update on children's services by Darci Alt and where the MHDS regions are at in meeting the July 1, 2021 deadline.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Break

The Commission took a break from 11:17 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

2021 Annual Report – Legislative Priorities Discussion

Commission members reviewed the legislative priorities from the 2020 Biennial Report that was submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly. There was discussion regarding updates, changes and additions to the 2020 legislative priorities to be included in the 2021 Annual Report. There was discussion regarding coming back to this agenda item at the September meeting to continue to discuss changes, and to wordsmith this specific section of the annual report.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.